

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy shown to Applicants' representative, Josh C. Snider, in the telephone interview conducted on October 21, 2005. Claim 1 of the present invention was discussed in relation to the Konovalov reference, and more specifically, with respect to Fig. 1 of the reference. Applicants' representative pointed out that Konovalov shows that the gap between adjacent dielectric ribs in Fig. 1 is significantly larger than the width of the ribs themselves. The Examiner asserted, however, that he is interpreting the language of claim 1 broadly enough to encompass a view of Fig. 1 on Konovalov still between the substrates, but perpendicular to the view shown. From such a perpendicular view (not illustrated by Konovalov) the Examiner asserts that a very narrow gap will appear between the dielectric ribs on opposing substrates. Therefore, agreement as to the patentability of the present claims was not reached.

Agreement was reached, however, as to what amendments to claim 1 would overcome the outstanding rejection. Although Applicants do not agree that any such amendments should be necessary, in the interests of expediting prosecution only, claim 1 of the present invention has been amended to clarify that the width of the gap between the insulating patterns refers to the gap between any two adjacent ones of the insulating patterns on the same substrate. The Examiner agreed that Fig. 1 of the Konovalov does not show these features as now amended. Again though, Applicants submit that no such amendment should be necessary, because the perpendicular view is not an accurate view of the entire gap

between Konovalov's dielectric ribs on opposing substrates. Fig. 1 of Konovalov actually shows that the entire gap between the dielectric ribs on opposing substrates (corner to corner) is still significantly larger than the width of the ribs themselves. The amendments to claim 1 presented herein though, actually broaden the claim scope, and therefore no equivalents are surrendered by these further amendments.

Claims 1, 4-5, 18, 20-21, and 27-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Konovalov in view of Koden et al (U.S. 5,790,218). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended according to the agreed upon language from the telephone interview.

Claim 1 now more clearly recites that the width of the gap between insulating patterns refers to the gap between any two adjacent insulating patterns on the same substrate. In other words, claim 1 now affirmatively recites that the width of the patterns is larger than the width of the gap between two adjacent patterns, whereas Konovalov shows in Fig. 1 that the width of the dielectric ribs is much smaller than the width of the gap between two adjacent ribs on the same substrate. The Examiner does not cite Koden for teaching these features, and therefore Applicants submit that the outstanding Section 103 rejection of independent claim 1, and all of its dependent claims, has been overcome.

Claims 3, 6, 9-16, 19, and 22-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Konovalov and Koden, and further in view of Hisatake et al. (U.S. 5,434,690). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the reasons discussed

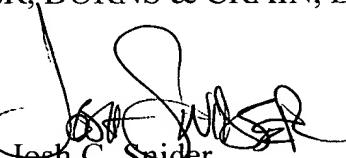
above with respect to independent claim 1. Claims 3, 6, 9-16, 19, and 22-16 all depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1, and therefore include all of the features of the base claim, plus additional features. The Examiner does not cite Hisatake for teaching the features of the present invention that relate to the width of the insulating patterns, or the width of the gap between adjacent insulating patterns, and therefore Applicants submit that this rejection has also been overcome by at least the amendments to claim 1.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application, including claims 1, 3-16, and 18-28, is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if a further interview would help expedite the prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By



Josh C. Snider

Registration No. 47,954

Customer No. 24978

November 16, 2005

300 South Wacker Drive
Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: (312) 360-0080
Facsimile: (312) 360-9315
P:\DOCS\0941\65640\9P2134.DOC